

Indicator RECOMMENDED	Current Use of Alcohol by High School Students
Justification	Approximately 100,000 deaths each year in the U.S. are attributed to alcohol misuse. Alcohol misuse results in injuries, violence, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, and other negative health and safety consequences. Purchase of alcohol by persons under the age of 21 is illegal. Young people who consume alcohol are more likely than adults to drink heavily.
Definition	Percent of students in grades 9 through 12 reporting any use of alcohol within the past 30 days
Data Source	Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Frequency	Biennial
Geographic Levels	National and State
Demographic Categories	Grade Level, Gender, Race/Ethnicity
Strengths	YRBSS estimates are typically based on larger samples than the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, and can be further broken down by grade level, gender, and race/ethnicity. Some states also collect YRBSS data for individual communities or school districts, which can be compared with their state-level data.
Limitations	As of 2003, weighted representative samples were available for only 32 states. Not all states participate, and some participating states do not provide representative samples. YRBSS is a school-based survey, so students who have dropped out of school are not represented. It is also subject to bias due to self-report, non-coverage (refusal by selected schools to participate), and non-response (refusal/no answer). Estimates for some subgroups may have relatively low precision (i.e., large confidence intervals).